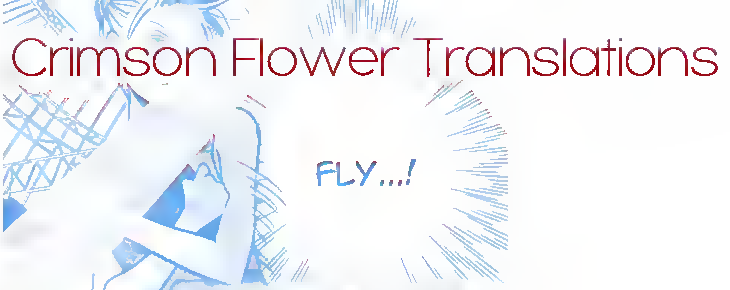
Crimson Flower Translations



Translation & English adaptation: Peonine
Translation QC & English Editing: Jade
Cleaning & Redrawing: Kuroneko003 & Ichigo stars
Typesetting: Suzume
Final Image Editing: Kuroneko003
Proofreading and QC: Zenny & Jade

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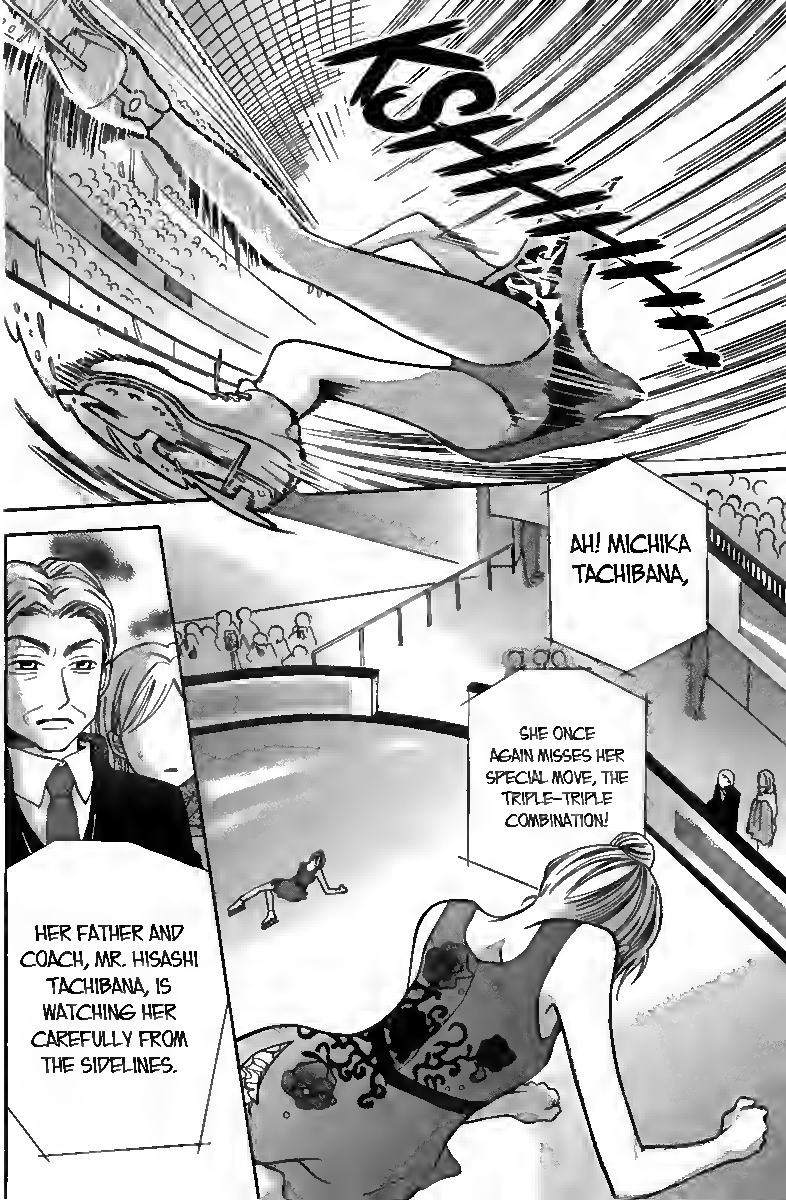
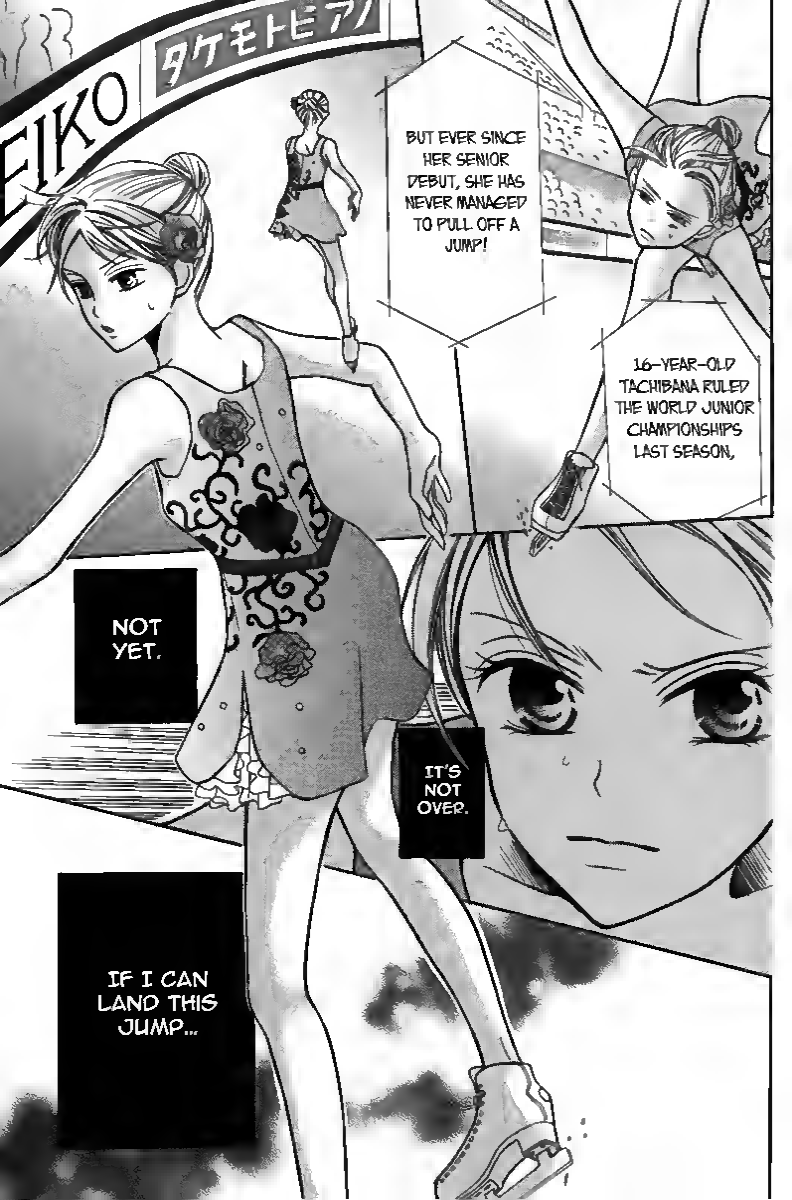
誰よりも高く跳べ！
Jump higher than anyone else!
The butterfly of the ice rink dances gracefully.
少女ジャンプ
SHOUJO JUMP
来海ユウ
YUU KURUMI


KSHHHH
AH! MICHIKA TACHIBANA,
SHE ONCE AGAIN MISSES HER SPECIAL MOVE, THE TRIPLE-TRIPLE COMBINATION!
HER FATHER AND COACH, MR. HISASHI TACHIBANA, IS WATCHING HER CAREFULLY FROM THE SIDELINES.


EIKO
タケモトピアノ
BUT EVER SINCE HER SENIOR DEBUT, SHE HAS NEVER MANAGED TO PULL OFF A JUMP!
16-YEAR-OLD TACHIBANA RULED THE WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SEASON,
NOT YET.
IT'S NOT OVER.
IF I CAN LAND THIS JUMP...

FLY...!
rattle
gasp
IT'S CRUMBLING!!

THE COMPETITION...!
.....
...Huh?
Ah...I was talking in my sleep...?
hAhAhAhA
clatter
...WHAT THE...?
IF I HAVE TO RELIVE IT IN A DREAM, AT LEAST LET ME JUMP!
TSC
achibana
kate
lub
See you tomorrow

Well,
FALL
You're bound to have a growth spurt at your age,
so it's only natural that you'll have difficulty jumping
You'll need to fine-tune the exact timing of the jump.
WOBBLE
Fine-tune?
I'M STILL INEXPERI-ENCED.
MY JUMPING FORM FALLS APART IN MID-AIR, SO
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE BASICS

Let's see...
The sports corner is...
SO THAT I CAN JUMP...
rustle
Shouhei Nagayama
The genius sports trainer tells us his secret body-building methods!
The ex-athlete turned coach,
and rumoured sports trainer!!
NAGAYAMA...

Don't cry.
I've had enough!
I can't jump at all!
Nagayama?
tears up
You're always doing your best, Michika,
so I'll tell you something good:
on the skate's edge
there is a secret, unique spot that gives you speed.
If you can skate on that exact spot
without slipping even a millimeter,
you'll be able to jump with more power than ever before.

Are you sure I'll be able to jump?
Really?
PAT
Of course you will!
NAGAYAMA WAS A TOP SKATER MY FATHER USED TO COACH.
THEN I'LL LOOK FOR IT!!
I PRACTICED AND PRACTICED,
HIS JUMPING FORM WAS BEAUTIFUL.
LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR MY JUMPS.
AND LITTLE BY LITTLE, I BECAME ABLE TO JUMP.
THEN I'D BE ABLE TO JUMP AS BEAUTIFULLY AS HIM.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I FOUND THAT SECRET SPOT,
NAGAYAMA WAS THE ONE WHO

MAYBE NAGAYAMA COULD...
IT'S BEEN 7 YEARS SINCE HE STOPPED GOING TO OUR RINK.
WILL HE REMEMBER ME?
Michika?

I was surprised when
Nagayama!?
...Hey it's been a while
Coach Tachibana called me saying his daughter wanted to meet me.
...So
what's up?
Actually...

Be your exclusive trainer?
Yeah.
In order for me to jump again,
I absolutely want you, who taught me the basics, to train me!
Sorry.
It's only for a month before the All-Japan Championship!
BUT I'M ALREADY UNDER CONTRACT WITH OTHER ATHLETES...
Even-
even 2 or 3 hours a day is fine...

I want to be able to jump
by the time Nationals start!
I'm sorry, but
!!!

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED THAT
I WILL NEVER SKATE ON THE ICE AGAIN.
"NEVER"?
HE MEANS FOR HIS WHOLE LIFE...?
WHY? THAT'S JUST...
achibana

An injury?
Well,
he did stop
because of an injury after all.
He finally won the medal he sought so badly during the World Championship.
Didn't he retire afterwards?
Right after the championship, he hurt his ankle.
He underwent an operation, and it went well but... he lost his ability to jump.
It was never made public...

SLIP
SO WHAT?
SLIDE
HE LOST
HIS PASSION
JUST BECAUSE HE HAD A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE

FOR ICE SKATING?
IN THAT CASE I'M NOTHING BUT A HUGE NUISANCE TO HIM
STALKING
MY JUMPS
ALL DEPEND ON NAGAYAMA SO...
BUT
ASSAULT
AMBUSHING
SWIP!

Enough.
Just give up already.
SWIP!
Wait a...
Please!
Stop it.
It's unseemly.
IT'S NOT UNSEEMLY!

The joy I feel the moment I successfully land a jump blows it all away!
In any case
the hard training,
the pressure before jumping,
all of it,
And I don't even care if it is!
THAT'S WHY I WILL DO ANYTHING TO BE ABLE TO JUMP!!

I suppose if we only train off the ice...
YES!
I DID IT....!
I DID IT, I DID IT!
THIS WAY

MY JUMPS WILL COME BACK TO ME.
Find...
my center...
of balance?
Tachibana
kate
lub
Finding your center of balance
That's right.
I have.
You've heard the term "center of balance", haven't you?
This is a higher level of training.
Is it because...
gasp!
IT'S CRUMBLING
my center of balance is off?
what?
It's not that it's off.

Cross skating
Back inside
Forward inside
etc
OF COURSE.
I GAVE IT MY ALL TO FIND THE SECRET SPOT...!
you've been practicing your skating and edge work every day for the past 7 years, haven't you?
Michika,
Did you know that this spot is
where the center of gravity of the body and the blade come together?
SWIP
your center of balance is precisely here.
Look,
NON-X

HELLO, THIS IS KURUMI.

Nice to meet you!
Or it's been a while
I'm Yuu Kurumi

I love figure skating
so I was very happy to be able to
draw a story about it at the end of
2011.

As I write this note,
the finalists for the
Grand Prix Series
have just been decided,
but by the time this magazine is
sold, I think the
All-Japan Championships
will already be over

I wonder who will shine
as Queen and King of the
Championship
I'm really looking forward to it

Well then, I'll do my best
so that I can draw again for
Hana to Yume!

Happy New Year to you all!!

Special thanks
my editor
Saku Nioh
Santa Tsuchiya
my family, my friends
the part-time workers
and
my readers
I'm indebted to you all!!

However, when you try to jump high, you put in power and
Uwah...
I'm bending way too far.
My form is way off!
You always do it when you charge forward to gather speed.
When you were small it made you turn more powerfully but when you grew up that was no longer the case.

That's where
we need to train your inner muscles.
Exactly.
Starting now, we'll tighten that center of balance
and strengthen it little by little.
THEN MY BODY WON'T TILT?!
YES!
I CAN JUMP.
I CAN JUMP.
I WILL JUMP

IF I'M TOGETHER WITH NAGAYAMA!
Keep your feet in a straight line without lowering your bottom.
Okay
Hold it for 10 seconds.
EEK
Keep your bent leg parallel to the floor
I'm shaking
It's because you're on top of a cushion
I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO IT.

〒101-0003
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Did I turn just now?!
Just a bit more.
Keep at it and try to jump!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M GETTING BETTER.
I KNOW THE MORE I PRAC-TICE,
THE MORE MY JUMPS WILL COME BACK
SHOOT

TO THE JUMPS FROM WHEN I WAS TRULY AT MY BEST.
TSC
achibana
kate
lub
TSC

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE UNTIL TODAY.
The National Championships are tomorrow.
Thanks to you, it seems everything all worked out somehow.
Don't mention it
I think...
she really did her best...

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
EVEN NAGAYAMA IS ROOTING FOR ME.

...HOWEVER...
ALL I CAN DO IS
BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND IN ALL THE TRAINING I'VE DONE UNTIL TODAY!
pant
pant

TSC
ICE
Nagayama,
why are you...?

...YOU DON'T RUN AWAY, DO YOU?
Uh...
...it's already midnight, you know!
I was worried.
The lights were on so

"I want to jump again."
I thought that too
when I couldn't jump anymore.
But
I couldn't. It was so frustrating...
and facing myself was too painful... so...
I RAN AWAY.

But you, Michika...
no matter how anxious you are
or how much you're scared of the competition,
jump and jump
and you keep jumping until you overcome it.
EVEN IF

I FEEL LIKE I MAY BE ABLE TO JUMP, BUT
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PRACTICE
I CAN'T DO IT AT ALL
You can do it.
If it's you, you'll be able to jump.

...be sure to jump.
I will jump with you, so
JSF
ALL-JAPAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS
全日本フィギュアスケート選手権大会
未知
Banner: Michika, you can do it!

CALM DOWN, HEART!
AND, DON'T YOU DARE SHAKE, FEET!
NOW
IT'S THE PROMISING MICHIKA TACHIBANA'S TURN.
HAS SHE RECOVERED FROM HER SLUMP?
I'M NOT JUMPING ALONE AFTER ALL.

I WILL JUMP!!
I CAN DO IT.
I CAN JUMP.
I CAN JUMP.
I CAN JUMP.

SLIDE
Muchika

SHE DID IT!
SHE JUMPED!
MICHIKA TACHIBANA PULLED OFF HER TRIPLE SALCHOW!
Hooray
Hooray
MICHIKA, YOU CAN DO
Go Fight!
HEY, NAGAYAMA,
I JUMPED.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE.
IN THE PAST AND NOW AS WELL,
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU PUSHED ME FORWARD AND TOLD ME "YOU CAN JUMP".

MY JUMPS
TRULY DID
COME BACK TO ME.

Thank you!
I was able to jump again because
you were there.
...?
When I saw you jumping
I felt as if I was jumping as well...
I'm grateful to you too.
YOU MADE ME WANT TO JUMP ONCE MORE.

When I'm able to jump again,
will you jump with me?
Yeah,
of course!
A JUMP THAT BRINGS US TO OUR FUTURE SELVES!
END